

California Coastal Currents

News and information from the California Coastal Commission

Volume 1, Issue 2, September 2000

LCP Assistance Grants

Over the last three years, the Coastal Commission has provided more than \$1.1 million in grants to coastal communities for completing or updating Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). Individual awards have ranged from \$13,500 to \$112,500. LCPs provide the fundamental planning tools for local governments to carry out the California Coastal Act. Recognizing the important role of LCPs, the Commission will award \$500,000 in LCP Assistance Grants again this year.

Local governments in the California coastal zone create programs that both implement the policies of the state Coastal Act and address community goals and local conditions. Planning and implementation techniques

change frequently; therefore up-to-date LCPs are critical for effective coastal management. The Coastal Commission provides funding to local governments completing LCPs or revising certified LCPs in whole or in part. Highlighted here are three ongoing work programs from recent grant years, each reflecting the distinctive character of the community as well as the concerns of the Coastal Commission.

The City of Trinidad, with the first fully certified LCP in the state, had amended its LCP twice, but had not undertaken a comprehensive update since 1980. The City applied for an LCP planning grant, requesting funds to resolve coastal resource issues within the not-yet-certified Trinidad Harbor Area, to incorporate the Harbor Area into the LCP, and to update citywide policies to reflect changes in the Coastal Act. The Coastal Commission's approval of the grant emphasized the need to create new maps with overlay zones and to develop methods for securing public access and addressing polluted runoff.

Other LCP work programs focus on specific issue areas. For example, the City of Carpinteria received funding to develop a creeks preservation program. Their work will address not only the preservation of local creeks and related sensitive habitats, but also the broader issue of non-point source pollution. The City intends for its work to provide a basis for implementing regulations of the Federal Phase II National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) as

In this issue—

In the Zone—Highlights from LCP Assistance Grants

Following the California Coastal Trail

Pismo Beach Accepts OTDs

The Grants Page—Three Funding Opportunities

Time to Clean the Coast

Coastal Commission Calendar

Why Do We Have LCPs?

The California Coastal Act of 1976 explains that in order to achieve maximum responsiveness to local conditions, accountability, and public accessibility, it is necessary to rely heavily on local government in carrying out the state's coastal objectives and policies. To this end, the Act directs each local government lying wholly or partly within the coastal zone to prepare a Local Coastal Program for its portion of the coastal zone. An LCP consists of a local government's land use plans, zoning ordinances, zoning district maps and implementing actions, which when taken together meet the requirements of, and implement the provisions and policies of, the Coastal Act at the local level.

well as California's Nonpoint Source Control Program (viewed at www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html).

Bluff erosion is a significant concern for Pismo Beach, a city known for its beaches and ocean cliff parks. In updating its LCP and General Plan, the City requested grant assistance from the Coastal Commission. LCP assistance funds are not available for General Plan work, however the award provided partial funding for the City to address bluff protection and public access within the context of the LCP update.

Last week, Commission staff received nearly two dozen applications from local governments seeking to improve coastal management in their communities. Staff will recommend award recipients to the Commission this fall, likely at the public meeting in November.

The California Coastal Trail: the State's Millennium Legacy Trail



—Photo by Julie Watson

During Coastwalk 2000, Californians celebrated the California Coastal Trail (CCT)—one of only 51 Millennium Legacy Trails nationwide.

When complete, the CCT will span the entire length of the State's shoreline and will accommodate a variety of users. The next issue of California Coastal Currents will feature the plans and efforts of the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy to realize the goals of the CCT project. Read more about the trail at www.californiacoastaltrail.org.

About Millennium Trails

The Millennium Trail Project is a partnership between the White House Millennium Council, U.S. Department of Transportation and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. The Project recognizes all kinds of trails with special value.

Designating three categories of trails, the program has created National Millennium Trails, Millennium Legacy Trails, and Community Millennium Trails. The 16 National Millennium Trails are visionary trails that reflect defining aspects America's history and culture. Millennium Legacy Trails represent the spirit of the Nation's states and territories and are representative of the diversity of trails: rail-trails and greenways, historic trails, cultural itineraries, recreation paths, waterways, alternative transportation corridors, and many other types of trails.

Community Millennium Trails will include thousands of trails across the United States that commemorate and interpret the communities they serve, be they large or small. Each trail in this category will be a trail in its most basic form: a path, either physical or conceptual, connecting places and people.

Making a Connection

An improved portion of the California Coastal Trail will soon connect Pacifica State Beach and Rockaway Beach. Thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy and funding from the City of Pacifica and the federal government, a paved trail and boardwalk will link the two popular beaches. The new path will skirt the habitat of the federally endangered snowy plover and help protect the dunes from further damage. Designated a Millennium Legacy Trail last year, the 1,200-mile Coastal Trail is not yet completed. When the trail between the Pacifica beaches opens next spring, it will move the project a bit closer to completion.

Nominate a Local Trail

Does your community have a trail that deserves special recognition? The Millennium Trail program is accepting applications for Community Millennium Trails on a rolling basis through January 12, 2001. To learn more, follow the link to Community Trails on the project's web site at www.millenniumtrails.org or call 1-877-MIL-TRLS (toll-free).

Pismo Beach Moves to Increase Coastal Access

The City of Pismo Beach recently accepted 21 offers-to-dedicate (OTDs) public access easements in its coastal zone. Coastal Commission staff commends the City staff and the City Council for the action. The City's action complements the previous one taken by the County of San Luis Obispo. The result is that, in conjunction with a few OTDs scheduled to be accepted by the State Coastal Conservancy, a major step has been taken in securing public access along the central coast. These easements, along with others required by local governments in implementing their certified LCPs, represent significant current and future trail alignments that will provide expanded opportunities for public access, for both residents and visitors alike.

THE GRANT\$ PAGE

Whale Tail Grants

At next week's public meeting, staff will propose that the Coastal Commission allocate \$172,000 for the FY 2000/2001 Whale Tail Competitive Grants Program. Applications will be available soon after the Commission meeting. Funded by sales of the Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate, this annual grant program is aimed at encouraging the development of educational programs that teach California's children and the general public to value and take responsibility for the health of the state's marine and coastal environments. Grants are also available for beach operation and maintenance activities with an educational component. Non-profit organizations and governments agencies are eligible for the funds.

The application deadline will be November 15, 2000. For more information, call Sylvie Bloch or Chris Parry at 415.904.5200.

Regional Wetlands Grants

EPA invites applications for fiscal year 2001 Wetlands Grants. The grants assist state, tribal and local government agencies in wetlands protection efforts, as funds can be used to develop new wetlands protection programs or refine existing ones. Wetlands grant funds presently cannot be used to fund operational support of wetlands programs. Priority project types include:

- 1) Developing and implementing comprehensive wetland monitoring programs including the capacity to analyze data, assess biological health of wetlands, estimate wetland losses and gains, and monitor wetland function, and;
- 2) Developing capacity to ensure ecologically effective compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts through the creation of tracking systems to build technical expertise in wetland restoration and creation.

Other projects may be eligible if they meet the goals of EPA's national wetland program guidance and are for the development or improvement of a state, local or tribal wetlands program.

EPA Region 9 Water Division funds the wetlands grants on a competitive basis. The Division expects to award approximately \$1.6 million in FY 2001. Previous awards have ranged from \$46,000 to \$250,000. An applicant's pre-proposal must be postmarked or received by Friday, September 29, 2000, by e-mail, fax or regular mail. EPA Region 9 will select the most competitive pre-proposals by Friday, October 27, 2000.

This grant announcement is on the Web at www.epa.gov/region09/water/. To determine whether your project is eligible for wetlands grant dollars, refer to the National Wetlands Grants Guidance. If you do not have Internet access, please contact Liliana Christophe at 415-744-1972 or christophe.liliana@epa.gov.



Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grants

Applications are currently available for the 2001-2002 grant cycle of the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) program, Secretary for Resources Mary D. Nichols announced.

The program offers a total of \$10 million to local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified state transportation facilities. Grants will be limited to \$250,000 per project.

Grants are given in three categories:

- 1) Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry—projects designed to improve air quality through the planting of trees and other suitable plants.
- 2) Resource Lands—projects for the acquisition,

restoration, or enhancement of watersheds, wildlife habitat, wetlands, forests, or other significant natural areas.

- 3) Roadside Recreational—projects for the acquisition and/or development of roadside recreational opportunities.

Applications for the 2001-2002 grant cycle must be postmarked or received by the Resources Agency no later than Friday, November 17, 2000.

EEM program application packets, which include minimum legal requirements, project evaluation criteria, typical questions and answers, and a sample Caltrans project agreement, are available from the Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by calling at 916.653.5656. For questions or further information, ask for Bill Borden at the same number.

The 16th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day Presented by Brita®

Saturday, September 16th, from 9 a.m. to noon (in most locations).



Californians will join hundreds of thousands of participants worldwide clearing trash and debris from our beaches, shorelines, and inland waterways. Last year, over 45,000 Coastal Cleanup volunteers collected 700,000 pounds of trash and recyclables, including 310,000 cigarette butts from California shorelines. Brita® will offer each volunteer a coupon for a free Brita Fill n' Go Water Filtration® Bottle as a gift for helping out. Cleanups will take place at over 600 sites on California beaches, bays, rivers, creeks, parks, roadsides, and highways. Call 1-800-COAST-4U for exact locations and other site-specific information.

The California Coastal Commission's Adopt-A-Beach Program and hundreds of local non-profits and governmental agencies throughout the state along with presenting sponsor Brita® coordinate this statewide event.

Other sponsors include American Plastics Council, See's Candies, Oracle Corporation, Bank of America, Universal Studios, Starbucks, KPMG, Duncan Channon Advertising, Orange Plastics, and the California Film Extruders and Converters Association. Coastal Cleanup Day 2000 is supported by the California Coastal Commission, California State Parks Foundation, and the Center for Marine Conservation. Media Sponsors include: KRON TV, Bay TV, The Gate, San Jose Mercury News, Contra Costa Newspapers, Hills Newspapers, KGO Newstalk AM 810, San Francisco Magazine, New Wave Broadcasting, KTLA TV, The Los Angeles Times, KEARTH Radio, The Daily Pilot, and OC Metro.

Coastal Commission Calendar

SEPTEMBER 12 - 15, 2000

Commission Meeting — The September Commission meeting will be held at the Eureka Inn located at 7th and "F" Streets in Eureka, California. The Coastal Commission's web page, www.coastal.ca.gov, features meeting schedules, current and previous agendas, as well as selected staff reports for upcoming meetings.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2000

Model Urban Runoff Training Workshop — The Coastal Commission's Water Quality Unit is sponsoring a technical training workshop for local cities and counties that need to begin a stormwater program. The Model Urban Runoff Program provides valuable information on how your municipality can achieve "Clean Water and Phase II Stormwater Compliance." The workshop is free and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Marinovich Community Center, 120 Second Street in Watsonville. For questions, call Ross Clark at the Commission's Santa Cruz office at 831.427.4863 or view the workshop announcement at www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/murp2.pdf.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Coastal Cleanup Day — Join 50,000 other Californians for the 16th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit the Public Education web page at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html.

NOVEMBER 15, 2000

Applications for Whale Tail Grants Due — Call Sylvie Bloch or Chris Parry at 415.904.5200 for more information.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CURRENTS is published periodically by the Local Assistance Program of the California Coastal Commission. Please contact Susan Swift at sswift@coastal.ca.gov or 415.904.2335 to submit information or to comment on the content of this newsletter.

To subscribe, send e-mail to currents@coastal.ca.gov with "subscribe" as the subject. In the body of the message, please include your name, title, affiliation, address, phone, and fax numbers. To unsubscribe, send an e-mail message to currents@coastal.ca.gov using "unsubscribe" as the subject. The newsletter can be faxed to those without email. Please call for further information.

General questions about the Coastal Commission may be directed to the Headquarters Office in San Francisco at 415.904.5200. Written correspondence can be sent to 45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94105.